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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BERN
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TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS--EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING US CONSULTATIONS WITH EC
PRESIDENCY, DEPARTMENT OFFICER (EUR/SE DIRECTOR) PROVIDED
DANISH EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 17 GENERAL REVIEW OF EASTERN

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MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES.

2. SPEAKING TO CYPRUS ISSUE, DEPTOFF NOTED THAT ECEVIT HAD SINCE HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE PREMIERSHIP PUBLICLY DECLARED HIS READINESS TO MOVE RESOLUTELY ON FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, AND HAD INDICATED THAT HE ACCORDED A HIGH PRIORITY TO CYPRUS. CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THIS INTENTION COULD BE SEEN IN HIS INVITING DENKTASH TO ANKARA FOR CONSULTATIONS THE DAY AFTER HIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. DEPTOFF NOTED ALSO THAT ECEVIT HAD CALLED FOR GREEK AND TURKISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT SPECIFIED HOW THIS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. IN GENERAL TERMS THE GREATER COHESION OF ECEVIT'S GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS DEMIREL'S COALITION SEEMED TO ARGUE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT POLICY INITIATIVES WHERE THE PREDECESSOR HAD DIFFICULTY.

3. DEPTOFF SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE

APPARENT RESULTS OF WALDHEIM'S RECENT VISITS TO ANKARA AND NICOSIA. IN THE PAST THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO CALL FOR A RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNLESS HE FELT SURE THAT SOLID PROGRESS COULD, IN FACT, BE MADE. IN VIEW OF WALDHEIM'S VERY POSITIVE REMARKS ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA, IT APPEARED TO US THAT ECEVIT HAD BEEN ABLE
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TO CONVINCE HIM THAT THE TURKS WERE SERIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND THAT THEY WOULD INDEED SUBMIT CONCRETE, NEGOTIABLE PROPOSALS ON CONSTITUTION AND ,ERRITORY. WALDHEIM HAD PERHAPS TEMPERED HIS OPTIMISM SOMEWHAT FOLLOWING HIS TALKS IN NICOSIA, BUT HE HAD STILL MAINTAINED THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE RESUMED IN MARCH.

4. DEPTOFF SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF MISSI;G PERSONS IN CYPRUS HAD APPARENTLY LOOMED LARGE IN WALDHEIM'S CONVERSA-TIONS IN NICOSIA. CONCLUSION OF A WORKABLE MISSING PERSONS AGREEMENT WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE A MOST USEFUL HUMANITARIAN STEP, AND WE ACCORDINGLY HOPED THAT THE FAIRLY NARROW DIFFERENCES THAT REMAINED COULD SHORTLY BE BRIDGED. COUNSELOR NIMETZ HAD SPOKEN TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL ON THE SUBJECT JANUARY 17, URGING THAT AN AGREE-MENT BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

5. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT, AS HAD ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED IN ANKARA, SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE STOPPING IN ANKARA ON HIS WAY BACK FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS STOP WAS NOT RELATED

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TO THE WALDHEIM VISIT TO THE AREA, AND IT WAS NOT SPECIFI-
CALLY ORIENTED TOWARDS CYPRUS; THE INTENT, RATHER, WAS TO
DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST. WE
WELCOMED THIS EARLY OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
WITH THE NEW ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE TO RASMUSSEN'S
QUESTIONS, DEPTOFF SAID THAT WE HAD READ ECEVIT'S FOREIGN
POLICY STATEMENT AS UNDERSCORING HIS DESIRE FOR A WESTERN
ORIENTATION BUT AS LEAVING THE OPTIONS OPEN FOR IMPROVING
RELATIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. DEPTOFF AFFIRMED THAT
THE TURKS HAD NOT CHANGED THEIR POSITION THAT CYPRUS AND
THE US-TURKISH DCA WERE DISCRETE ISSUES. AT THE SAME TIME,
HOWEVER, THEY WERE QUITE AWARE THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS
TOWARDS A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE
ADMINISTRATION AT SUCH TIME AS WE DECIDE TO SEEK CONGRES-
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SIONAL PASSAGE OF THE DCA. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPTOFF
NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD SHORTLY BEGIN CONSIDERING
THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FY 1979, AND THAT THE
CONGRESS WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE ADMINISTRATION VIEWS ON
GREECE AND TURKEY.

6. DEPTOFF TOLD RASMUSSEN THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD VISIT
ATHENS ON JANUARY 21, AFTER THE ANKARA STOP. AGAIN, THE
PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ENGAGE IN A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON,
ALTHOUGH BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, CYPRUS, THE
US-GREECE DCA, AND GREECE'S STATUS IN NATO WOULD NO DOUBT
BE AMONG THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. ASKED WHETHER PAPANDREOU'S
PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH WOULD ACT AS A CONSTRAINT ON GREEK
FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, DEPTOFF
REPLIED THAT CARAMANLIS STILL ENJOYED A GOOD WORKING
MAJORITY AND COULD PRESUMABLY MOVE AHEAD SHOULD HE SO
CHOOSE. HE MIGHT, HOWEVER, EXERCISE GREATER CAUTION THAN
HERETOFORE IN AREAS WHERE PAPANDREOU IS KNOWN TO HAVE
STRONG VIEWS OF HIS OWN. DEPTOFF CONFIRMED THAT THE GREEKS
WERE STILL OPPOSED TO DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN CYPRUS
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE NOTED THAT ECEVIT HAD NOT SUGGESTED
THAT ATHENS AND ANKARA NECESSARILY NEED TO BE AT THE TABLE.

7. RASMUSSEN ASKED WHETHER ANY FRESH US INITIATIVES ON
CYPRUS WOULD SOON BE FORTHCOMING. DEPTOFF SAID THAT WE
HAD NO PLANS FOR A FURTHER MISSION TO THE EASTERN MEDITER-
RANEAN, AND THAT OUR PRINCIPAL CYPRUS EMPHASIS CONTINUED
TO BE ON SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF TH. SECRETARY ;ENERAL.
HE ADDED THAT ECEVIT'S POSITION TH;T THE US SHOULD NOT
BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CYPRUS ISSUE IN FACT
REFLECTED OUR OWN THINKING; WE PERCEIVED OUR ROLE AS ONE ,F
ENCOURAGING THE PARTIES TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS
AND OF TENDERING ASSISTANCE WHEN REQUESTED.
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8. DEPTOFF STRESSED IN CLOSING THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACHED TO REGULAR CONSULTATION WITH THE EC ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES. WE WELCOMED COMMUNITY VIEWS, AND HOPED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS TALKS. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE FELT THAT FURTHER OUTSIDE INITIATIVES WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL. CHRISTOPHER

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